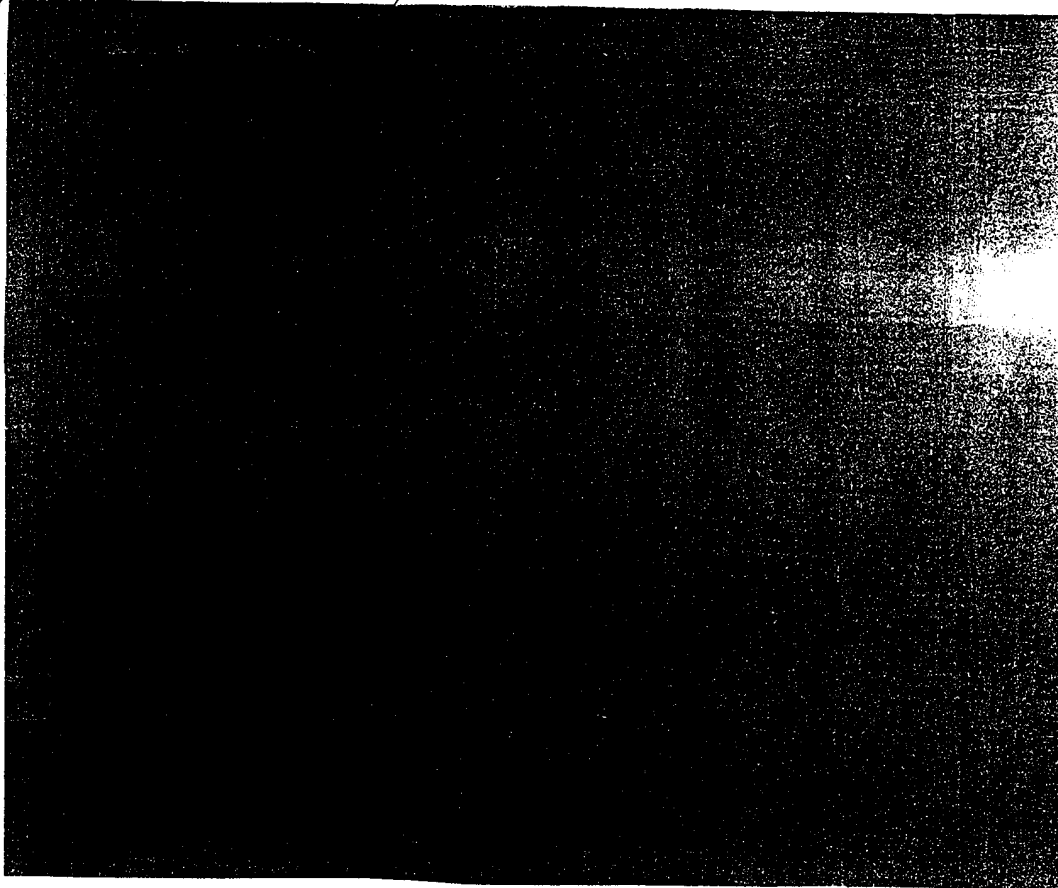


CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY REVIEW

24 March 1960

DELETED TEXT  
NOT RELEVANT  
TO BAY OF PIGS



THE CUBAN SITUATION

The Castro regime is tightening its control over communications media and extending its radical socio-economic programs. Over 80 radio and television stations have been formed into the "Independent Front of Free Transmitters" (FIEL) with the avowed purpose of "consolidating the revolution and orienting the people." Many of the announcers are pro-Communists, and the output often follows the Communist line. One FIEL announcer has said

that an inter-American network is planned, with branches in Mexico, Venezuela, and possibly Panama.

According to Peiping's New China News Agency, which has been timely and accurate on recent internal Cuban developments, the "people's stores," organized by the regime's Agrarian Reform Institute to "eliminate exploitation by the middleman" in retail sales, are being extended to the cities.

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM  
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Five such markets are said to be operating in Havana, in addition to more than 1,300 already established in rural areas. Working on a 10-percent margin, they may drive independent grocers out of business.

The recent defections of Cuban service attachés in the United States and Venezuela and the resignation of the moderate finance minister, Lopez Fresquet, coincide with increasingly outspoken attacks on Communism by Cuban groups alarmed at recent Communist gains. The Autentico organization of former President Prío issued a sharply worded attack on Communism on 14 March and called for a "unity congress" of groups supporting the Cuban revolution. It warned these groups against abdicating their responsibilities, as such a course would leave the field open to the Communists.

Unrest is also reported among Cuban students worried by Castro's stated intention of "reforming" the university, eliminating its jealously guarded autonomy. One student group is reported planning anti-Communist demonstrations in order to test the limits to

which the government will go in suppressing such activity.

The "Week of Solidarity with the Struggles of the Latin American People," declared by the Communist-infiltrated Cuban Labor Confederation for 20-26 March and warmly endorsed by the Cuban Communist party, resulted in several public manifestations and much propaganda against the "dictatorial" regimes in Latin America and in support of the Puerto Rican people's "struggle against colonial rule."

The Chinese Communists gave strong support to the Cuban manifestations with a mass rally in Peiping on 19 March, the first of the "China - Latin America Friendship Association" which was formed in China on 16 March. Radio Peiping reported that the rally, "in support of the Latin American people's national and democratic movement and the Cuban people's struggle against US imperialist aggression," was addressed by Premier Chou En-lai and a number of Latin American delegates.

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